Children working in carpet industry

516. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per 2001 Census, 32,647 children in the age group of 5-14 years were working in carpet industry and 5.75 per cent children in glass industry in violation of law;

(b) if so, the present status, and the overall scenario of child labour in the country; and

(c) the action taken against violators of law during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The estimation of the number of child labour in the country is done on the basis of census carried out by the Registrar General of India once in every ten years. As per the 2001 Census, 32,647 children in the age group of 5-14 years were working in Carpet industry and 5,758 children in Glass industry.

Section 14 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 Occupations and 65 Processes. Any person, who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 3 months but which may extend to one year or with fine ranging from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 20,000/-. State Governments are the appropriate Government for implementation of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 for the areas coming under their jurisdiction. During the period from 2002-03 to 2006-07, 8,951 violators have been convicted under the provisions of the Act.

Contract empolyees in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Tamil Nadu

517. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problems being faced by the contract employees working in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu for a long time; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal with Government for the settlement of long pending issues of the contract employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter was brought before Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) for reconciliation. A Memorandum of Understanding was arrived at between the parties on 16.06.2008.

The management of Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been advised to ensure full implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding.